

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Department of Natural Resources

Room 314

August 12, 2003

Minutes

Member Present:

SOWARDS, Glade – Utah Energy Office
MILLIS, Eric – Division of Water Resources
KAPPE, Karl - Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
HARTY, Kimm – Utah Geological Survey
ALLIS, Rick – Utah Geological Survey
HARJA, John – GOPB/DNR
CANNING, Michael – Division of Wildlife Resources
SCHLOTTHAUER, Bill – Division of Water Rights
GUNNELL, Roy – Utah Department of Agriculture
DANIELS, Ron – Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
BLATTER, Therron – Division of Environmental Quality – Environmental Response

Others Present:

WRIGHT, Carolyn – GOPB/DNR
LANDURETH, Brenda – DNR Admin
RIGTRIP, Keith – Bureau of Land Management
HIGDON, Matt – Bureau of Land Management
DESING, Clark – Federal Aviation Administration
WETHERELL, George – Federal Aviation Administration

I. Approval of Minutes

Glade Sowards called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. Karl Kappe made a motion to approve the July 8, 2003 minutes with minor corrections submitted by Kimm Harty, Glade Sowards and Carolyn Wright. Kimm Harty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Special Presentations/Discussion

Northern Utah Airspace Initiative – George Wetherell/ Clark Desing

George Wetherell, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), is the project lead for the *Northern Utah Airspace Initiative (NUAI)*. Clark Desing is the facility manager and represents the FAA. The NUA I is taking a proactive approach to managing the airspace in northern Utah. FAA is investigating alternatives to aircraft routing in and out of Salt Lake City International Airport (SLIA).

Prescoping meetings were completed one year ago for the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) (Salt Lake, Provo and Ogden) and a lot of information has been gathered from public comments received at these meetings. Forty-three sensors are being placed throughout the valley to capture ambient and aircraft noise to identify a baseline of the noise footprint. This information and noise modeling will be available in early September. The NUA I effort is seeking additional public input and will continue to provide opportunities to educate the public about the outcome of the EIS. A final EIS and Record of Decision will be released. Several design alternatives will be used to evaluate possible aircraft traffic routes in the study area. Altitudes and procedures will be developed based on noise modeling and other information. SLIA, Ogden-Hinkley Airport, Hill Air Force Base (HAFB), the Provo Airport and several other smaller general aviation airports are included in the redesign process. Three brochures were provided from the scoping meetings, *National Airspace Redesign*, *Aircraft Noise* and the *Northern Utah Airspace Initiative*.

The purpose of the DEIS is to avoid safety degradation, to improve efficiency and to meet future air traffic demands. The DEIS will consider a four-corner post concept. Coordination is ongoing with federal, state and local agencies as well as the public to obtain comments regarding the DEIS. Web page address is www.faa.gov/ats/nar/. All of the aircraft routes are currently located on the west side of the valley. This has created system choke points. George Wetherell and Clark Desing described the existing environment and possible alternatives. Safety issues related to the U.S. Air Force (USAF) Test Range include holding patterns and head on separation problems. Redesign will improve safety, reduce noise, increase fuel efficiency, and provide fast and idle descend segregated streams. Alternatives were described to the committee that involve a four-corner post concept. Air traffic from each corner will be directed downwind. The airport and airplanes will have new equipment to allow flight-idle descent power back until they land. Future departure and arrivals in and out of the valley will be quicker and more efficient. New holding patterns include 63 miles and 35 miles from Salt Lake City. The new design allows the holding patterns to be more efficient coming from all four corners. The new design will allow for planes to enter holding patterns until full and then return to the airport within eight minutes. Small airports have been included in the DEIS to consider any potential impact with general aviation. Currently, access to and from SLIA and satellite airports is ineffective. SLIA is a unique airport that actually consists of two airports in one, 1.) a General Aviation airport (flight schools and touch-and goes), and; 2.) Salt Lake International with Airport. HAFB service will not be degraded and it will actually enhance access to USAF test ranges. Analysis of growth scenarios and route expansion has been completed. In 10 years, if we continue to expand at the 30 percent current growth rate, the airport will not be able to accommodate growth according to modeling results. This growth rate has already been exceeded. Many smaller airplanes are flying out of the airport today, which indicates expansion of the regional jet services. Aircraft are currently funneled into a single stream to land on the runway at SLIA. Altitude separation is used to avoid traffic jams. Sterilization or a four-corner strategy keeps planes separated, which results in enhanced safety. Planes flying over the east side of the valley will fly at higher altitudes than those currently flying over the west side. As a result, it is difficult to use west-side flights to gauge noise levels that may be anticipated from east-side flights.

John Harja. Bureau of Land Management/U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Planning

Kimm Harty, Utah Geological Survey, had reported to John Harja that several items from Bureau of Land Management have not been received by the Resource Development Coordinating Committee (RDCC). John Harja suggested renewing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to ensure that all project proposals are received. John Harja will meet with Keith Rigtrip, BLM, to make sure that RDCC reviews all EISs and environmental assessments (EAs) that are priorities for the state. Please bring in any projects that may not be included on the management system to John Harja's or Carolyn Wright's attention. EISs and EAs are available on BLM's website. Keith Rigtrip will work out a process with the state office. RDCC staff will sort this issue out with BLM.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) were discussed and how various resources can be protected without labeling these areas and resources ACEC. BLM could limit resource allocations and land use designations without labeling these areas as ACECs. Impacts would be included in the resource management planning. Wilderness Study Areas will not automatically become ACECs. John Harja stated that a new category called, "federal RMP coordination" is being used for the

coordination process. If an area is an ACEC, it must look like an ACEC. Justification for ACEC designation has been based on existing information. Be careful and use clear language in your comments on planning efforts. Val Payne and John Harja will be coordinating comments on these planning efforts with BLM and the USFS. Interdisciplinary teams will meet on August 22, 2003. Please send any bullet points to Val Payne before the meeting. Val Payne has been busy attending resources management planning meetings. Moab and Monticello Resource Management Planning efforts will be starting soon.

Quitchupah Field Trip will be held on August 28, 2003. An email will be sent out with additional information. Please meet at Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in the early morning and the group will return late in the day. No lodging will be necessary.

III. Report from Agencies on Any Anticipated Projects

Kimm Harty, Utah Geological Survey shared pictures of the completed trench near Mapleton, Utah to gather information regarding the history of the Provo section of the Wasatch Fault. This is a terraced "megatrench" to investigate earthquake history.

Karl Kappe, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (DFFSL), asked about the recent landslide in Bluffdale, Utah. A landslide resulted from slope failure in which the water master's home was impacted.

Rick Allis, Division Director, Utah Geological Survey, attended the meeting and mentioned that division directors are interested in being informed about RDCC meeting discussion items.

Ron Daniels stated that the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining is involved in an analysis of the ACEC issue for BLM's Richfield District. He reported that the water in the Skyline Mine is pumping continuously; the mine is considering closing.

Michael Canning, Division of Wildlife Resources announced that the proposed state sensitive species list notice was published in the local newspapers that initiated a 45-day public review process. The sensitive species committee, DNR division directors and others are meeting on September 25, 2003 to discuss comments about the species list and the data that was used to generate the list.

BLM alternatives for the Price and Richfield Resource Management Plans (RMPs) should be completed by the October 1, 2003. The Vernal draft EIS should be completed by October 2003 for public review. Price is looking at January 2004 and Richfield will possibly be completed by March 2004. Moab and Monticello RMPs public scoping meetings are scheduled in October. The Grand Staircase National Monument Grazing EIS socioeconomic outreach/public scoping is scheduled for early September. The draft DEIS will be out by December 2003. Bill Stringer is the new acting field office manager in Vernal.

Karl Kappe reported that Tooele County Commission has received a second petition from Stansbury Island landowners to vacate the county road maintenance on west Stansbury Island Road. The judge will not rule on the current petition until August 28th. The hearing is scheduled for 3:00 p.m., on September 2, 2003, in Tooele, Utah. DFFSL did not receive proper notice 10 years ago when the

county vacated the road. Now the landowners want to try again to close off public access. DFFSL believes that the court will rule the 1993 vacation notice null and void. The road reaches sovereign land and the division would like to have administrative access and public access to the bed of the Great Salt Lake.

IV. Review of Proposed Items as Listed on the Project Management Library

John Harja asked the committee to review Project Management System #3149. There is a discussion regarding areas formally known as wilderness.

Glade Sowards asked the committee to forward any ideas for presentations to Carolyn Wright.

School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) agreed to discuss a landfill at Lakeside, which is south of Magcorp Corporation with Tom Welsh. This is a simple municipal waste landfill. SITLA will buy each cell as they open them and when they get close to capacity they purchase the whole operation. SITLA is offering the land but is not interested in operating and closing the landfill. This project is pending Salt Lake County's determination and contractor selection.

Next meeting will be held on September 9, 2003, at 9:00 a.m., in room 1040. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources will bring refreshments for the meeting.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:05 a.m.